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29 January 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Cuba--Internal: Cuban leaders are showing concern over the lack of worker initiative and the resulting threat that labor productivity will not reach planned levels.

At a 27 January ceremony honoring "outstanding" workers, Che Guevara publicly referred to the "symptomatic and alarming" fact that many Cubans "do not work hard enough." He said many of the same young Cubans who have shown themselves ready to fight courageously on the battlefield in defense of the fatherland do not show the same spirit "when it becomes necessary to perform obscure and boring daily tasks" on the production front. Guevara declared that the working class must learn that the two kinds of sacrifice are equally important in the "building of socialism."

There is no evidence that the Cubans have had appreciable success thus far in efforts to increase production through such techniques borrowed from the Soviet Union as "Socialist emulation" campaigns and highly publicized awards to outstanding workers.

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[redacted] sugar harvesters in Oriente Province are being told that those who show outstanding productivity will be given special awards. Those with families are to be given houses, and each bachelor will be given a horse and a guitar.]]

In his 27 January speech, Guevara--with his characteristic frankness--stated that "the best factories in Cuba came from the United States," but that now there are no longer spare parts for these factories and Cuba has reached a "more or less critical point" in this respect. [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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Congo: (The Adoula government continues to try to assert its authority in South Katanga with little real regard for Tshombé.)

(Adoula's resident minister in Elisabethville, Joseph Ileo, has told Ambassador Gullion that his job is to carry out Katangan integration, not to negotiate or discuss. He said that he would not tolerate any Katangan obstructionist tactics. Ileo's adviser told a US official that Ileo was not stressing the U Thant plan, which he considered "somewhat overtaken by events.")

25X1 [] (Tshombé has informed the UN that on 30 January he will send his senior gendarmerie officers to take the oath of allegiance in Leopoldville as called for in the Thant plan. Tshombé is increasingly worried that his adversaries may be shelving the Thant plan, which he evidently hopes to use to retain power.)

(On 26 January the small Congolese military contingent in Elisabethville began mixed patrols with UN troops. General Mobutu and Ileo have asked Leopoldville to send additional troops for such patrols in Jadotville and Kolwezi, despite UN resistance to the wider use of Congolese soldiers.)

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Togo: (President Grunitsky may abandon further efforts to maintain his shaky coalition regime unless he can soon obtain broader diplomatic recognition from African and other governments.)

(Only Ghana--which most African governments suspect was behind the military coup in Togo--and Senegal have announced unqualified recognition of the Grunitsky regime. Dahomey, which played a leading role in installing Grunitsky, announced de facto recognition on 23 January, but appears to have backed away from this position at the conference of moderate African states held in Lagos on 24-26 January. The conferees at Lagos reportedly adopted a Nigerian plan to send a mission of inquiry to Togo.)

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NOTE

Syria: [Current Syrian allegations that US officials in Syria have been collaborating with pro-Nasir elements may be related to the increasingly precarious position of the Azm cabinet. The cabinet narrowly escaped a coup by disgruntled former officers in mid-January, and is failing to deal with a rising wave of pro-Nasir subversive activities. Anti-Nasirists, including Azm, probably hope that an anti-American campaign might divert attacks from them and serve to avert the cabinet's fall.]

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